



STATE OF MAINE
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
23 STATE HOUSE STATION
AUGUSTA, MAINE
04333-0023

JOHN ELIAS BALDACCI
GOVERNOR

SUSAN A. GENDRON
COMMISSIONER

Exhibit #V.B.

TO: Members of the State Board of Education

FROM: Susan A. Gendron, Commissioner*

DATE: February 11, 2004

SUBJECT: Major Capital Improvement Program, *Design & Funding Approval Consideration*
Biddeford School Department; Biddeford Middle School

STATEMENT OF FACT

The Biddeford Middle School construction project received Concept Approval at the January 15, 2003 Maine State Board of Education meeting. The project was approved in local referendum on March 25, 2003. This Design & Funding Approval is being requested pursuant to M.R.S.A. Title 20-A. The construction project will take place on the existing middle school site. The project will solve overcrowding problems in the primary, elementary and middle schools.

Biddeford will make a major financial contribution to the project. The local contribution will finance a larger facility to meet the program needs of the Biddeford Middle School. It will also partially finance a 900-seat auditorium. The total local commitment is estimated at \$4,790,145.

This project will permit Biddeford to abandon twenty-six portable units and to relieve excessive crowding in the elementary school.

Biddeford requests Design & Funding Approval for a new middle school construction project which qualifies under State statute and State Board of Education Rules for Major Capital School Construction Projects, and it is therefore recommended that the State Board of Education approve the following:

- That Biddeford's proposed project is eligible for school construction aid under M.R.S.A. Title 20-A, Chapter 609;
- That the proposed project and the authorized method of financing are in the best interest of the State of Maine and the school unit;
- That the total estimated capital outlay expenditures are reasonable; and
- That Biddeford's proposed project is in compliance with M.R.S.A. Title 20-A, Chapter 301, as it relates to the provisions of special education facilities.

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Concept Approval Date and Amount: January 15, 2003; \$22,783,376
Design & Funding Approval Date and Amount: February 11, 2004; \$22,783,376
Amount Included in Subsidized Debt Service: \$17,993,231
Local Only Project Funds: \$4,790,145
Increase/Decrease from Concept Amount: \$-0-

DEPARTMENT RECOMMENDATION

The Department of Education recommends that the State Board of Education grant Design & Funding Approval to the Biddeford School Department for the Biddeford Middle School Major Capital Improvement Project.

This approval constitutes Design Approval. Final Funding approval may be subject to adjustment under Section 15 of the State Board of Education Rules for Major Capital School Construction Projects, which states:

“When it is determined by the Commissioner, following the opening of school construction bids, that there are surplus funds contained in a project budget, the State Board of Education directs the Department of Education (DOE), with the advice of the Bureau of General Services, to initiate a process to lower the approved budget to the appropriate funding level, thus, providing additional funds for other projects awaiting concept approval.”

*Prepared by School Facilities Services Team